

University of Minnesota Libraries, Bigheads Round Robin
January 2006

University news:

The University of Minnesota strategic initiative to reposition the University as a top research institution continues with the work of 36 planning committees posted for public review. The budget model has already been changed to a model in which the Libraries and other central services attribute their costs to collegiate units. Collegiate units receive all of their tuition, fee, and indirect cost revenue and then pay for central services. A "weighted head count measure" will be used to apportion costs.

Libraries news:

Linda Watson was hired as the Director of the Health Sciences Libraries, coming from the University of Virginia. Kris Keisling joined the Libraries as Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections, coming from the University of Texas–Austin.

ILS:

We migrated to version 17 of Aleph in August 2005. The migration went well and training was minimal, but subsequent patches have generated maintenance work as indexes needed to be rebuilt and resulted in unexpected changes to processes. Thus, there has not been time to move forward as quickly as hoped with the implementation of reporting tools (ARC), display of CJK vernacular, and other desired enhancements. In preparation for effective use of the OCLC Collections Analysis tool (as part of a CIC project), we have resent all of our records to OCLC, hoping to correct some long-standing inaccuracies in the representation of our holdings. The project seems to be moving forward successfully with close to 93 percent of our holdings loaded as of mid-December.

Process improvement:

In the summer 2005, University of Minnesota Libraries embarked on a process improvement project to address all monographic activities from "Selection to Access." This collaborative effort, which is co-owned by Collections Development, Academic Programs, and Access Services, has progressed well. In July and August, R2 consultants did an analysis of monographs processing from the point of selection to access (available for patrons). Their report and recommendations were well received and, in September, an implementation team began work to implement the basic recommendations. Those include significant expansion and revision of approval plans, online selection in vendor databases, more use of shelf ready services, and fuller use of Aleph functionality. This project will likely take a year to achieve all expected benefits.

Technical Services:

Acquisitions: Monographs acquisitions is extensively involved in the Selection to Access Process improvement implementation.

Serials: We are concerned about the temporary loss (in Aleph v. 17) of the ability to load serials invoices and the prospect of keying in the payments this year. We are beta testing EDI serials claiming with Ex Libris.

Cataloging: We continue to use one-time funding and redirected funding to tackle cataloging projects such as cataloging the Elmer L. Andersen gift collection; the Basil Laordes Modern Greek Collection; the Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies; Scandinavian documents; the Kirschner Cookbook Collection; and our historical collection of print newspapers. We have also reclassified some of our remaining Dewey collections (a portion of literature),

and reclassified (and converted to online) records for music scores. Serials catalogers are very pleased with the SFX MARCIt record loading process and are engaged in an extensive clean-up project related to these loads. We withdrew 23,000 added copies that had not circulated in 10 years.

Information Technology:

A Libraries-wide IT initiative to explore a peer consultant model and to develop staff development IT training has progressed. A core skill set for all staff has been defined. All library staff soon will have completed a skills assessment questionnaire. Based on the results of that questionnaire, Libraries Human Resources will build a training program to ensure that all staff have basic information technical skills.